

PCAccent for January 2008

Welcome to PCAccent. This newsletter is an adjunct, an "accent" if you will, to the PCA's Web site and the PENnant. The Board of Directors will use PCAccent to keep you informed about PCA news and happenings.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER! For comments or questions, send email to PCA President Rick Propas. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please send email to Membership Coordinator Kim Sosin. Email addresses for Rick and Kim can be found on the PCA's Web site:

<http://www.pencollectors.com/>

*** Presidential Points, by Rick Propas ***

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. I hope everyone had a good holiday season, filled with joy and that all of you found some sort of pen-related goodie under the bush, tree, or mantle.

Despite having taken time off to be with our families, we have been busy. The Board of Directors of The Pen Collectors of America is pleased to welcome on board our new treasurer, Russ Ewert. More on Russ later.

The treasurer's is a key position within the PCA. Like board members, he is a volunteer, yet he carries a tremendous burden in keeping records, reporting finances and assuring compliance.

In fact, we are currently looking for an assistant to work with Russ. If you or anyone you know does not mind data entry and seeks to learn the ins and outs of non-profit management, this would be an ideal position.

Speaking of volunteers, those of you who filled out interest forms at the Columbus Pen Show in November, should expect to hear from one of us soon. We have not forgotten you.

Elsewhere in this issue you can also read about plans for our new Web site and find out how to help shape it.

Please accept our best wishes for 2008 and, as always, we appreciate your support for the PCA. This year, help spread the word.

And if you have any questions or comments or suggestions please feel free to contact Rick Propas (rickpropas@comcast.net).

*** Help us Design the new PCA Web site! by Linda Bauer ***

The PCA board is inviting feedback from members (that means you!) for a proposal for a new Web site design for <http://www.pencollectors.com>, the official PCA Web site.

At our board retreat last August, we discussed providing improved services to PCA members and as part of that, we decided to start work on a more interactive PCA Web site. It had been several years since the original site had any design changes, and the "frames" architecture was outdated.

The board discussed a number of ways the Web site could be of more service to members, such as having a downloadable electronic Library, more up-to-date news and events, and possibly even our own forum.

We recently made some updates to the Web site to freshen the look. The site currently has PCA News, pen show information, reports on Pens for Kids activities, and downloadable copy of the bylaws.

But before we launch any major redesign effort, we want to hear from = you.

What would you like to see in the future on the PCA Web site? What kind of information should be available for pen collectors, and what kind of functionality should our Web site have? Should it have a members-only area on with login required? Would you like a downloadable electronic library where you can download pen information for a small fee or for free? Would you like the ability to post photos

of your pen collection, do pen reviews, write articles for posting?

How about a PCA wiki or moderated forum?

Send comments and suggestions to Linda Bauer (lbauer@prairienet.org).

*** Member Outreach, by Kim Svabik ***

The PCA is taking a leap into 2008 with a strengthened presence that will be felt by the pen community, PCA members, and future collectors of all ages. We are proud to announce the upcoming debut of a new display at the February Los Angeles International show

=AOA desire to visually identify the PCA mission and programs, as well as making a commitment to the pen community solidified the board's decision to move forward with this project as a first step toward an integrated marketing strategy for the PCA. Our goal is to attract interest by visually pulling people to the display booth, allowing direct dialogue with our members, as well as, signing up new ones.

The benefits of increasing awareness and interest at pen shows adds value to the Pen Collectors of America mission and programs.

*** Member Services, by Kim Sosin ***

You are receiving this newsletter because you have renewed since October 1, 2007, although we might have missed a few whose checks are being processed. Our membership dues are based on a January-December calendar year. All members joining after October 1 will have their membership extended through the following year. If you have membership questions, please email Kim Sosin (info@pencollectors.com).

*** Meet Russ Ewert, Your New Treasurer ***

Russ Ewert graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in Business and Law and taught accounting and finance. He has conducted "Fundamentals of Finance for Non-Financial Executives" seminars around the country

He began his banking career at the First National Bank of Chicago's Commercial Banking Department and was elected a Vice President. Subsequently, he went to Drexel National Bank as CEO and President.

In retirement, he consults with troubled (profit challenged) companies.

During his career, Russ felt the need to give back to the community and has volunteered with many not for profit organizations (NFP).

He represented a multimillion-dollar NFP, working with Chicago's largest law firm, during an IRS audit concerning the 501(c)(3) accounting and activities and successfully represented a bank that the IRS was trying to close for violating the Patriot Act and cash reporting requirements.

While working with the PCA, Russ is committed to a transparent and integrated accounting system with an audit trail in place.

Russ claims to know more about business and organization than about pens, stating that "several members who have sold me pens (thus have cleaned the depths of their collections) can attest to my knowledge of pens."

*** HELP WANTED -- This Means You! ***

We are currently looking for an assistant to work with Russ. If you or anyone you know does not mind data entry and seeks to learn the ins and outs of non-profit management, this would be an ideal position. Please contact Russ (HDRUSS@aol.com).